

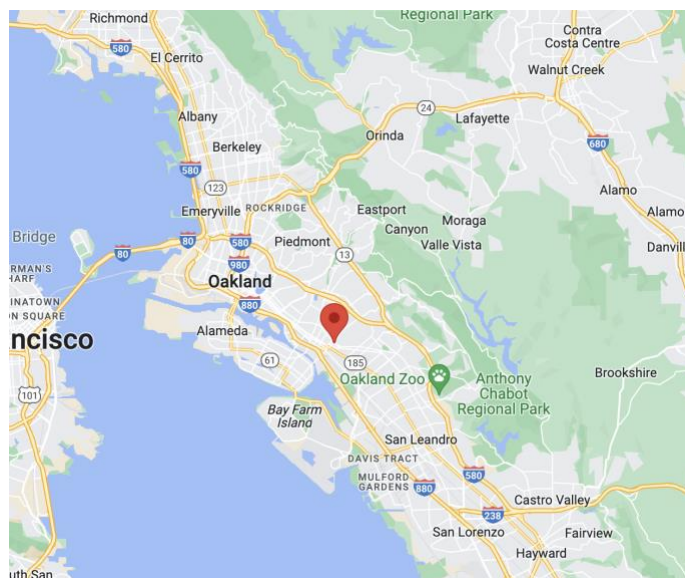
**CASE STUDY: Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana & High Street Presbyterian Church  
T-CARE (Truth Commission Assessing Race and Equity) - September 2023  
Rick Leong**

*Preamble: This case study is based on the research completed by one member of T-CARE (Rick Leong). It was based on the written record; not on extensive interviews or focus groups. It should not be taken as a comprehensive report of the issue but as a beginning of a conversation process. These events created, exacerbated, and stirred up deep emotion, much of which is still felt and carried by the people who participated or witnessed them. Our presbytery still needs to reckon with these events. We recommend the Reparations and Community Healing Commission engage with these events by holding a Truth and Reconciliation Process.*

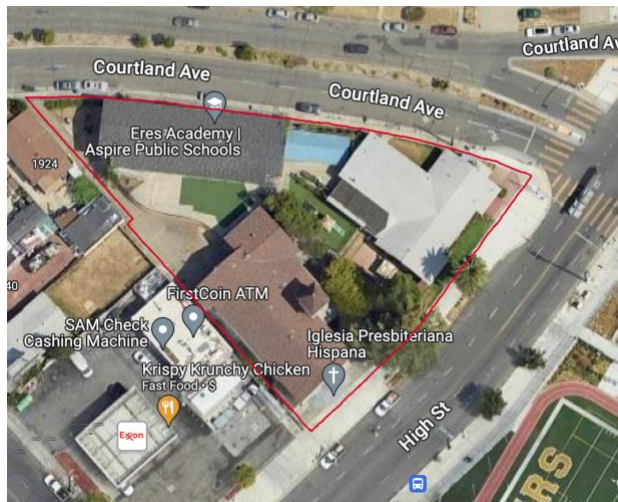
In several documents, the conflicts, over several decades, between High Street Presbyterian Church (HSPC) and Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana (PIPH) have been focused upon their joint use of the property at 1941 High Street in Oakland, California (some documents dating the relationship between PIPH and HSPC as far back as 1999 (PIPH; *“PIPH - Our Petition to the Presbytery; undated*)

### **Property - History**

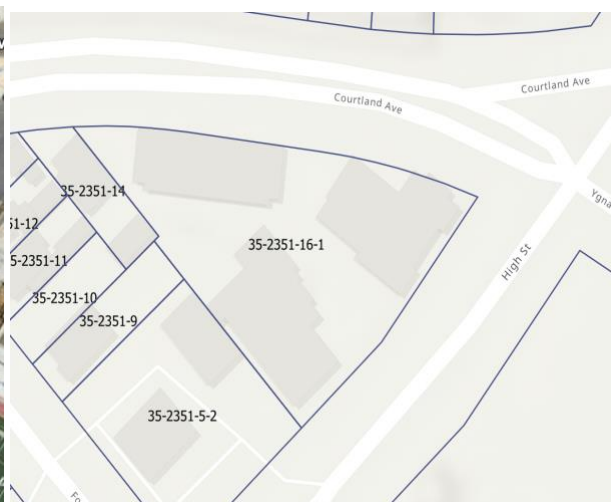
“The church lot at High and Courtland was obtained in January 1907, for a total cost of \$1200; and in the following March a large tent was pitched on the corner and services were held there.” “Ground was broken for the first building on December 18, 1907... until the new building was completed and occupied on April 5, 1908.” “... on November 18, 1921, the cornerstone of the second building was laid and the dedication service was held the following April.” “The time arrived when still further expansion was necessary. The whole membership combined efforts and a third building was brought to reality (in 1949).” (*High Street Presbyterian Church; “News From On High”, The newsletter of High St. Presbyterian Church; April 2001*)



(Google Maps; Accessed 23 Oct 2023)



(Google Maps; Accessed 23 Oct 2023).



(Alameda County Parcel Viewer; #35-2352-16-1)

## HSPC/PIPH Relationship

PIPH was a church plant to minister to the Hispanic community in East Oakland. The PSF originally referred to PIPH as “the Hispanic New Church Development Project” (1991). A report from the “High Street Presbyterian Commission” stated that the PSF voted to dissolve HSPC and to have it replaced by a “Hispanic new church development.” This resulted in a lawsuit being submitted to the Synod of the Pacific (Plaintiff: HSPC; Respondent: PSF). Following this, a compromise was made to “help both ministries flourish using the High Street facility”. (*High Street Administrative Commission; “Final Report to S.F. Presbytery from High Street Presbyterian Commission, Oakland”; 5 May 1991*).

It is unclear if PIPH and HSPC actually had entered a mutual agreement to share the use of the High Street facility/property, as several documents produced by the 2014 Administrative Commission stated that no use agreement was found or presented. In T-Care's review of the available files, a fully-executed lease/facility use agreement made between PSF and PIPH was found. It should be noted that HSPC was not a signatory to this agreement. (*PSF; “Lease and Facility Use Agreement”; Executed on 1 Sep 1991 between PSF, HSPC and PIPH*).

## Rental Use of Property

The church property and facilities were also rented to two local public education organizations: Aspire Public Schools for their program use for different periods of time (*HSPC; “Use Agreement”; Executed 1 Jun 2014 by HSPC and Aspire Public School*)

## Primary Issues

The issues between HSPC and PIPH spanned decades (90's, 00's, 10's).

- (1) **Property Ownership:** There was clearly a mixed understanding of “ownership” of the property/facilities at 1941 High Street by each of the Presbyterian parties involved (PSF, HSPC, and PIPH)
  - a. PSF – Presbytery’s understanding based upon constitutional trust law. The PC(USA) Book of Order: *“G-4.0203 Church Property Held in Trust All property held by or for a congregation, a presbytery, a synod, the General Assembly, or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), whether legal title is lodged in a corporation, a trustee or trustees, or an unincorporated association, and whether the property is used in programs of a congregation or of a higher council or retained for the production of income, is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).”*
  - b. HSPC – Congregation believed that it “owned” and held 100% control over the property and its use.
  - c. PIPH – “PIPH always knew that this property was part of the denomination and that there were two churches sharing the space, until through other people, we began to hear that the HSPC were rightful owners.” (PIPH; *“Preguntas Para Comision Administrativa Del Presbiterio – AC”*; undated)
- (2) **Property and Facility Maintenance** – dispute over responsibilities for maintenance of facility and associated costs to perform this maintenance.
- (3) **Authority to Enter Into and Administer Rental/Use Agreement for a Third-Party** - HSPC entered into use agreements with two different educational organizations during two separate time periods (Neither PSF nor PIPH were a party to this agreement). HSPC received the money from these leases.
  - a. 2008-2009 Dolores Huerta Learning Academy (PSF, *Presbytery Meeting Minutes, Nov. 2008, Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church*)
  - b. 2014-2019 Aspire Public Schools (HSPC; *“Use Agreement”*; Executed 1 Jun 2014 by HSPC and Aspire Public School)

## Findings

- In 2014, the Presbytery of San Francisco (PSF) created an administrative commission (AC) “to aid in listening and reconciliation between the neighboring congregations of High Street Presbyterian Church in Oakland and Primera Iglesia Hispana Presbiteriana in Oakland and the Presbytery of San Francisco.” (*Administrative Commission for HSPC and PIPH - “Second and Final Report to the PSF; Sept 8, 2015).*

- **June 3, 2014- Presbytery of San Francisco First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley**  
 Joint Report of the Committee on Ministry (COM) and Finance & Property Oversight Committee (FPOC) -  
 Meeting Packet: June 3 2014
  - o Items for Discussion and Action: 1. MOTION: COM and FPOC jointly recommend that the Presbytery of San Francisco name a special commission of no less than seven people whose task would be to explore the history of all that has been said and all that has been done with High Street Presbyterian Church (HSPC) and Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana (PIPH), and then recommend a mutually agreed-upon process that seeks to celebrate, nurture and serve the needs of both congregations, neither at the expense of the other. The members of this special commission would be appointed by the Moderator and Vice Moderator, after consultation with the Presbytery Pastor and committee chairs, and would include an equal number of representatives and advocates for both congregations, and at least two representatives from both COM and FPOC.
- **Minutes; September 9, 2014 – Presbytery of San Francisco First Presbyterian Church, Oakland**

The Stated Clerk informed the presbytery of the following appointments made to date for the commission, approved by presbytery at the June meeting, which will work with High Street Presbyterian Church and Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana in Oakland: Rev. Don Ashburn, Piedmont Community Church; Rev. Keith Geckeler, Honorably Retired; Rev. Kamal Hassan, Sojourner Truth PC, Richmond; Rev. Vanessa Hawkins, Member at Large; Rev. Jeannie Kim, Member at Large; Rev. Max Lynn, St. John's PC, Berkeley; Ruling Elder Mary Jane Gordon, Ingleside PC, San Francisco; Ruling Elder Tony Montalvo, Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, Oakland; Ruling Elder Ana Hernandez, Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, Oakland. Additional appointments will be made to complete the commission, including at least two ruling elders from High Street Presbyterian Church. This fall, once the appropriate composition has been met, the commission will begin its work to listen to the histories of the two congregations and to explore ways to ease tensions between the two so that both congregations may thrive, neither at the expense of the other.

**-5186 November 10, 2015 – Presbytery of San Francisco First Presbyterian Church, Oakland  
 Appendix 11, Page 1**

- Administrative Commission for High Street and Primera Iglesia Second and Final Report to the Presbytery of San Francisco Meeting on November 10, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Motion 1: “the Presbytery of San Francisco VOTED to confess its failures in process and procedures since 1987, thus creating and maintaining misunderstandings and mistrust in the relationships between the Presbytery, Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, and High Street Presbyterian Church.

Motion 2: “the Presbytery of San Francisco VOTED to acknowledge the right of High Street Presbyterian Church to oversee the Constitutional use of its facilities. The Presbytery may exercise authority properly provided for in the Constitution (e.g. the use of "real property used for “worship” or the implementation of “original jurisdiction” if the session is “unable or unwilling” to resolve difficulties. (G-3.0303e).

Motion 3: “the Presbytery of San Francisco VOTED that the Presbytery of San Francisco suspend the portion of the Standing Rule 6.3.1, which requires a minimum of seven persons on a commission to allow for a smaller commission to be appointed in action #4 to follow.”

Motion 4: “the Presbytery of San Francisco VOTED that the Presbytery appoint at today's meeting a commission of at least three people with the authority to act as Presbytery in carrying out the functions of G-3.0301 and G-3.0303: (especially " ...guide, encourage, support, and resource the work of congregations for the most effective witness to the broader community." And "...providing encouragement, guidance, and resources to congregations in the areas of mission, prophetic witness, leadership development...evangelism and responsible administration...".)

- a. Engage in conversations with High Street Presbyterian Church regarding the possibility for resolving the existing situation by entertaining one of several options for guaranteeing both congregations long term use of their facilities;
- b. If “a” proves successful, to enter into negotiations with High Street and Primera Iglesia to produce a Covenant and Contract acceptable to both congregations; [This assumes the probable need for legal advice and professional services (including translation) to accomplish these documents];
  - i. That guarantees both congregations the freedom to conduct their worship and ministry without undue interference or fear of loss of their congregational space;
  - ii. That insures both congregations will be able to function for the next decade or two without fear of catastrophic maintenance or repair costs beyond the resources of either congregation;
  - iii. That will involve consultations with the Committee on Ministry and the Finance and Property Oversight Committee.
- c. To facilitate the work of this commission, the presbytery guarantees up to \$1,500,000 to accomplish “b”, including property improvements, professional costs, and lease or purchase costs – as well as initial support for mission and ministry until resolution of the school lease and determination of any long term mission support from presbytery.
- d. If “a” or “b” proves unsuccessful, this administrative commission will be a commission to advocate for Primera Iglesia in locating:
  - i. Facilities for short term (up to two years) use which are acceptable to the congregation and presbytery.
  - ii. A permanent “home” for the ministry and mission of Primera Iglesia.

iii. Financial support to make “d.i” and “d.ii” possible (including possible need for purchase of property) – as well as to support that mission which reflects the goals and mission of the presbytery.

e. To serve as a mediator alongside the congregation in negotiations for Items “d.i” and “d.ii” and “d.iii” (G-3.0303d(2)).”

Motion 5: the Presbytery of San Francisco VOTED that the Finance and Property Oversight Committee and the Committee on Ministry appoint a **project team** of at least 7 people to develop a comprehensive strategy for the support and development of other new congregations struggling with similar nesting issues as exist in this situation.

Motion 6: “the Presbytery of San Francisco VOTED that COM be encouraged to use the authority of G-3.0303 to address issues related to the relationship between the two pastors as well as issues related to pastoral behavior and leadership of both congregations.”

### **Summary of Learnings**

“We came to understand that the presbytery played an active role in creating the climate of mistrust and misunderstanding which exists between High Street Presbyterian Church, Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, and the Presbytery of San Francisco.”

“We affirm High Street’s ongoing stated commitment for Primera Iglesia to have a home in their building for worship and ministry but have come to question whether this is still true.”

“We are unclear as to the exact nature of the formal relationship between the two churches. There is no recent (within 10 years) “covenant agreement” anyone can provide.”

“Because of the way in which presbytery sought to create Primera Iglesia, there has been a constant and continuous series of misunderstandings related to the High Street Presbyterian Church property.”

“We believe that unequal power dynamics between Primera Iglesia, High Street, and the presbytery and a lack of effective tools for multicultural communication and understanding have played a role in the conflict between the three parties.”

“It is our conclusion that after 25 years of off and on discord, it is unlikely (in the foreseeable future) for these two congregations will find a mutually agreeable long-term relationship with regard to the property.”

“It is our conclusion that the inability of the two pastors to work together productively without third parties present is one reason for the present impasse.”

“It is our conclusion that the presbytery, going forward, must acknowledge the ongoing sense of loss of “home” by Primera Iglesia members as well as the grief and feelings of injustice should it need to relocate—and that presbytery must take affirmative action to ameliorate these realities.”

### **Conclusions/Recommendations**

“Following meetings with both congregations, both sessions, and both pastors, this Commission reports they have been unable to find—and **they do not anticipate finding--a mutually agreed upon process of reconciliation** that might resolve the mistrust, anger, hostility, lack of communication, and feelings of disrespect harbored by both congregations toward each other and the presbytery. We thus confess our inability to fully meet the commission given to us.”

5267 August 27, 2016- Presbytery of San Francisco Christ Presbyterian Church, San Leandro  
Appendix 3, Page 1

The original report was produced in both English and Spanish. This version for the minutes is English only. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION WORKING WITH HIGH STREET AND PRIMERA IGLESIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES Presbytery of San Francisco August 27, 2016 Agreement between The Presbytery of San Francisco, High Street Presbyterian Church and Primera Iglesia Hispana. (06-23-16)

1. The Presbytery will spend up \$500,000 to address repair and maintenance needs of all three buildings on the property shared by the churches.
2. This work will be managed by the Presbytery and provided at no cost to either church with the understanding that High Street will release all past and future claims of rent or payment from PIPH except as provided herein.
3. Pursuant to provisions of the Book of Order enumerated in G-4.02 and subject to conditions set forth herein, Presbytery will assign control and ability to collect rent from and responsibility for on-going maintenance and payment of insurance, utilities and property tax assessments as to the three buildings as follows: a. Complete use and responsibility for the Julia Morgan building and the education building to HSPC. b. Complete use and responsibility for the sanctuary building at 1941 High Street to PIPH. c. So long as the current Aspire Charter School lease is in effect, the terms of that lease will remain unchanged. When the existing lease with Aspire Charter School is terminated Presbytery will have the right of first refusal to lease the education building for use by PIPH in its ministries. d. Should the lease be renewed, PIPH will have the right to collect rent money for use of the downstairs social hall and kitchen in the building at 1941 High Street.
4. Presbytery will continue its present financial support for the work of PIPH and in addition will allocate up to \$7,500 per month for the next ten years (and renegotiable thereafter) to rent classroom space (including space in the education building as mentioned above) in the vicinity of the church.

5. In the interest of maintaining a good working relationship between the congregations Presbytery will designate a person acceptable to both churches to be always available to assist in the mediation and resolution of any issues that may arise between the congregations.

5315 May 9, 2017 – Presbytery of San Francisco Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Carlos

- Report of the Administration Commission for High Street Presbyterian Church - Rev. Kathy Runyeon reporting Kathy introduced members of the commission and shared a summary of the packet report. (See Appendices 4 and 5.) She invited questions of clarity. Fred Harvey, member of the AC, added a prayer of appreciation for HSPC who just celebrated 110 years of service as a congregation in the High Street neighborhood.

1. MOTION: The Administrative Commission for High Street Presbyterian Church, acting as the Session and trustees of the High Street Presbyterian Church following the resignation of the congregation, recommends that the Presbytery of San Francisco dissolve the Congregation of High Street Presbyterian Church according to the following terms: The Congregation of HSPC would be dissolved on July 1, 2017, provided that the requirement (of Motion #2) to transfer the property trusteeship to Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, Oakland, and to retitle the real property into the name of the Presbytery of San Francisco has been completed by that date. If either of these two conditions is not completed as of July 1, 2017, the formal date of dissolution will be the date on which both of these requirements have been completed.

2. MOTION: The AC for HSPC, acting as the Session and trustees of the High Street Presbyterian Church following the resignation of the congregation, recommends that the Presbytery of San Francisco transfer the real and personal property of High Street Presbyterian Church to Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, Oakland, according the following terms: (For terms, see REPORT #9 – COMMISSIONS.)

Committe On Ministry

1. MOTION: The Administrative Commission for High Street Presbyterian Church, acting as the Session and trustees of the High Street Presbyterian Church following the resignation of the congregation, recommends that the Presbytery of San Francisco dissolve the Congregation of High Street Presbyterian Church according to the following terms: The Congregation of HSPC would be dissolved on July 1, 2017, provided that the requirement (of Motion #2) to transfer the property trusteeship to Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, Oakland, and to retitle the real property into the name of the Presbytery of San Francisco has been completed by that date. If either of these two conditions is not completed as of July 1, 2017, the formal date of dissolution will be the date on which both of these requirements have been completed.

2. MOTION: The AC for HSPC, acting as the Session and trustees of the High Street Presbyterian Church following the resignation of the congregation, recommends that the Presbytery of San



Francisco transfer the real and personal property of High Street Presbyterian Church to Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, Oakland, according the following terms: (For terms, see REPORT #9 – COMMISSIONS.)

- 5327 May 9, 2017 – Presbytery of San Francisco Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Carlos Appendix 4, Page 1 REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR HIGH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Presbytery of San Fra cisco May 9, 2017
- An addendum to the report of the PIPH/HSPC Commission of the Presbytery of San Francisco. For Presbytery of San Francisco meeting on May 9, 2017

### Commission Report

“At its meeting on November 15, 2016 the Presbytery of San Francisco took the action shown below and established this commission. **As reported then, the Rev. Linda Gruel, then pastor at High Street, renounced the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) while under accusation for disciplinary offenses. The session had resigned en masse and sent the Presbytery notice of their intent to dissolve the congregation.**”

“At their meeting in October, 2016, the **session authorized disbursements to mission organizations and to members and staff, virtually depleting their treasury.** The commission was grateful for the decisions to distribute \$5400 in support of local mission groups but believes the other disbursements, totaling \$40,234.56, as contrary to the PC(USA) trust clause that says assets are for the good of the whole church. Note that Anore Shaw was not present for the October 2016 session meeting, but otherwise many checks were authorized by the persons present as disbursements to themselves. Most checks were signed by Janet Kirk; exceptions are the check to Janet which was signed by Nancy Gruel and the check to Vivian Louie which was signed by both Janet and Nancy. Noted for the record, but not for action, below is a list of the disbursements that the AC feels are questionable. Presented as 3 months of “normal monthly stipend” to staff members, these checks could be justified as severance but are not accurately noted as compensation: Cynthia Rose \$750 Alejandria Sales \$600 Linda Gruel Neff \$6,634.56 These checks were listed as “in kind gifts” for “dedicated membership.” Items marked by an asterisk were authorized by the session elders and given to themselves. Anore Shaw \$1,750 Edna Barner \$1,750 Barbara Forsberg – for Bob Forsberg \$1,750 Sal Zargoza \* \$1,750 Archie Ingram \* and Kathy O'Toole \$1,000 Janet Kirk \* \$7,500 Nancy Gruel \* \$7,500 Vivian Louie \* \$7,500 Marian ‘Edie’ Eddens \* \$1,750”

“All commission members were present except InHo Kim who was ill. The AC reviewed all previous items of business. By consensus the commission agreed that membership is now zero.”

**“The commission recognizes these disbursements as irregular, and possibly illegal, actions but has chosen but to pursue litigation at this time. Consensus is that the commission does not want to pursue legal action now, but will include the information in a report to presbytery and send that report to those members.”**

An addendum to the report of the PIPH/HSPC Commission of the Presbytery of San Francisco. For Presbytery of San Francisco meeting on May 9, 2017

During the summer of 2016 the Commission tasked by the Presbytery of San Francisco to find a permanent home for the life and ministry of Primera Iglesia Presbyteriana Hispana issued a report outlining our conclusion that the very best—indeed the only realistic—home for Primera Iglesia Presbyteriana Hispana was the one they had been using for decades. In order to make our conclusions work, however, we had to address the concerns of High Street Presbyterian Church which was, in effect, PIPH's landlord. Not long after receiving our report, the entire congregation of High Street Presbyterian Church resigned its membership in the church. In light of this development, the Commission proposes that the High Street Presbyterian Church property be transferred to the Presbytery of San Francisco, with the understanding that the Presbytery will designate the property in its entirety to PIPH. In order for this transaction to transpire, we recommend the following actions:

- Upon dissolution of High Street Presbyterian Church as a congregation, and consistent with G-4.0203 of the Book of Order, PIPH would become primary trustee of and responsible for all of the real and personal property of HSPC, for the use of and under the trustee control of PIPH, as if they had originally purchased the property. Legal title will be vested as "The Presbytery of San Francisco."
- For the remainder of the term of the current lease with Aspire Schools, "Landlord" control will be transferred to both PIPH and Presbytery. As of the date of the transfer of the lease and the property, all lease income would go to PIPH and all current and future expenses for the property, including maintenance, taxes, and capital costs would be assumed by PIPH. The unused space of HSPC that is not currently rented to Aspire would be under the control of PIPH, including any additional rent if PIPH chooses to rent it out. When the lease expires, PIPH will be free to choose a new tenant or to renegotiate a new lease with Aspire. PSF would remain as a co-signer of the lease under any Book of Order provisions and under any State Law requirements.
- The current financial support that Presbytery sends to PIPH, which is \$6000 per month, would end as of the date of the transfer of rental income to PIPH.
- The Presbytery of San Francisco will assume the costs of repairs to the property that have already been completed or that are underway. (To date Presbytery has spent approximately \$140k on the roof and the drainage at PIPH, and has a commitment to do lead abatement in the amount of approximately \$35k, as well as a commitment for some roof repairs to the Julia Morgan roof in the amount of approximately \$4.5k; these expenses will not be transferred to PIPH but will be assumed by PSF.)

REPORT #9 COMMISSIONS 3 - 2

- Over the next 5-10 years, there will be additional improvements needed throughout the property for roofs, drainage, landscaping, walkways, tree removal, electrical upgrades, sewer replacement, painting, roofing and gutters, furnace replacement, bathroom replacements, kitchen upgrades, flooring and painting, and possible classroom upgrades. These costs are expected to be in the neighborhood of \$250k - \$400k. To ensure that PIPH has a reliable funding source for capital improvements, PSF would establish an interest-only Line of Credit (LOC) to PIPH. The terms for the LOC would be the same basic terms of the an emergency loans made to several of our churches: 4.5% yearly interest on any balance, paid monthly, except that it would be a 10 year term. At the end of the 10-year period PSF and PIPH will renegotiate the loan. For any work done using the LOC, Presbytery would work with the

congregation to ensure that all liens are expunged, bills paid and contracts well written on behalf of the church. PIPH will request assistance from PSF as needed for facilities evaluation, training for building maintenance (large and small projects), and for the timing and planning of when capital work should be undertaken. We propose that the above actions happen concurrently with the formal and legal dissolution of High Street Presbyterian Church.

### **T-CARE Findings**

- (1) The Presbytery of San Francisco admitted that they contributed to the difficult relationship between High Street Presbyterian Church & Primera Iglesia.
- (2) The PSF **CHOOSE NOT** to pursue any form of judicial process in addressing the then HS pastor's potential missteps and the highly questionable distributions to HSPC pastor, staff, and remaining congregants before they "self-dissolved". This gives the appearance that the PSF decided not to pursue reparations from a legacy white congregation for funds (~ \$40K) that would have been very helpful to Primera Iglesia.

### **Additional notes/references**

5292 November 15, 2016 - Presbytery of San Francisco First Presbyterian Church, San Mateo  
Appendix 8, Page 1 Judicial Report and Report and Recommendations with Regard to High Street Presbyterian Church Presented by Stated Clerk Katherine J. Runyeon Presbytery of San Francisco  
November 15, 2016

5276 November 15, 2016 - Presbytery of San Francisco First Presbyterian Church, San Mateo  
Following worship, Vincent Mok assumed the chair. Report on Judicial proceedings and matters at High Street Presbyterian Church – Stated Clerk, Rev. Kathy Runyeon reporting The Stated Clerk inf

5267 August 27, 2016- Presbytery of San Francisco Christ Presbyterian Church, San Leandro  
Appendix 3, Page 1 The original report was produced in both English and Spanish. This version for the minutes is English only. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION WORKING WITH HIGH STREET AND PRIMERA IGLESIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES Presbytery of San Francisco August 27, 2016 Agreement between The Presbytery of San Francisco, High Street Presbyterian Church and Primera Iglesia Hispana. (06-23-16)

5186 November 10, 2015 – Presbytery of San Francisco First Presbyterian Church, Oakland Appendix 11, Page 1

- Administrative Commission for High Street and Primera Iglesia Second and Final Report to the Presbytery of San Francisco Meeting on November 10, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Minutes; September 9, 2014 – Presbytery of San Francisco First Presbyterian Church, Oakland

- Stated Clerk Kathy Runyeon shared announcements pertinent to the life of the presbytery and the wider church. Items of interest included information on the GA "Season of Peace", concerns for those in our midst in need of healing and comfort, data on how teaching elders are serving in ministry, the appeal by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for donations to aid ministries on the U.S./Mexico border and the hope that the offering at the November presbytery meeting will be designated for PDA, and highlights from the 221st General Assembly held in Detroit in June. There is detailed information on the General Assembly in the Stated Clerk's written report in the packet for this meeting, including proposed constitutional amendments that the presbytery will be voting on at upcoming meetings. The Stated Clerk's report covers actions taken on the overtures sent by the Presbytery of San Francisco to General Assembly. (Appendix 3) Kathy explained, during the docket approval, how we will hear about General Assembly during the meeting. The Stated Clerk informed the presbytery of the following appointments made to date for the commission, approved by presbytery at the June meeting, which will work with High Street Presbyterian Church and Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana in Oakland: Rev. Don Ashburn, Piedmont Community Church Rev. Keith Geckeler, Honorably Retired Rev. Kamal Hassan, Sojourner Truth PC, Richmond Rev. Vanessa Hawkins, Member at Large Rev. Jeannie Kim, Member at Large Rev. Max Lynn, St. John's PC, Berkeley Ruling Elder Mary Jane Gordon, Ingleside PC, San Francisco Ruling Elder Tony Montalvo, Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, Oakland Ruling Elder Ana Hernandez, Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, Oakland Additional appointments will be made to complete the commission, including at least two ruling elders from High Street Presbyterian Church. This fall, once the appropriate composition has been met, the commission will begin its work to listen to the histories of the two congregations and to explore ways to ease tensions between the two so that both congregations may thrive, neither at the expense of the other.

June 3, 2014- Presbytery of San Francisco First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley  
Joint Report of the Committee on Ministry (COM) and Finance & Property Oversight Committee (FPOC) -

Meeting Packet: June 3 2014

- Items for Discussion and Action: 1. MOTION: COM and FPOC jointly recommend that the Presbytery of San Francisco name a special commission of no less than seven people whose task would be to explore the history of all that has been said and all that has been done with High Street Presbyterian Church (HSPC) and Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana (PIPH), and then recommend a mutually agreed-upon process that seeks to celebrate, nurture and serve the needs of both congregations, neither at the expense of the other. The members of this special commission would be appointed by the Moderator and Vice Moderator, after consultation with the Presbytery Pastor and committee chairs, and would include an equal number of representatives and advocates for both congregations, and at least two representatives from both COM and FPOC.

November 11, 2008 - Presbytery of San Francisco Grace Presbyterian Church, Walnut Creek,  
A lease agreement between Oakland, High Street Presbyterian Church and the Dolores Huerta Learning Academy through June 2009.